



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO  
GOVERNOR

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May 20, 2005

The Honorable Jim Weiers  
Speaker of the House  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: House Bill 2770: general revenues; budget

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I signed into law House Bill 2770, related to the disposition of certain revenues and budget matters, subject to my line item vetoes of sections one, three and four of the bill.

Section one of the bill (page 1, lines 2 through 36) eliminates the minimum distribution to the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (the "Authority"). I line item vetoed it because the cost savings to the state from such a cut are minimal, but the effects these cuts would have on the Authority and on Arizona's prospects for hosting economically productive sporting events are significant. At least one major bonding company has already informed the Authority in writing that the removal of the minimum annual distribution set forth in A.R.S. § 42-1116 would "fundamentally alter the Authority's plan of finance" and "prohibit the Authority from issuing its proposed bonds to complete the multipurpose stadium facility in Glendale." Cutting such funding to the Authority is unwise and inconsistent with other efforts the state has taken, including enacting House Bill 2035 earlier this session, to attract economically beneficial sporting events such as the Super Bowl and the 2007 Collegiate Championship Game. As Arizona competes to attract and retain such events, we should not be cutting statutory funding streams on which the Authority reasonably relied in pursuing bonds.

Sections three (page 2, lines 13 through 16) and four (page 2, lines 17 through 19) of the bill constitute a further legislative effort to appropriate federal monies the state receives. Like my predecessor governors, I have consistently objected to such efforts, and I do so again now for the reasons set forth in my veto letters of March 3, 2003 and April 25, 2005.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", followed by a horizontal line.

Janet Napolitano  
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Ken Bennett  
The Honorable Russell Pearce